

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-06 XMB-04  
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /087 W  
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R 151344Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 647  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
CINCLANT  
USNMR SHAPE  
AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS LONDON 2643

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MPOL, UK, NATO  
SUBJECT: UK PRESS REPORT ON AWACS

1. THE SUNDAY TIMES 13 FEBRUARY ISSUE RAN A VERY STRONGLY ANTI-AWACS ARTICLE UNDER THE TITLE "WHY NATO WOULD RATHER NOT FLY BOEING" WRITTEN BY ROGER EGLIN. THE THRUST AND TENOR OF THIS ARTICLE ARE REFLECTED BY THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS: (A) AN AWACS DECISION " . . . TO PUT IT CRUDELY, COULD WIPE OUT A LOT OF JOBS IN THIS COUNTRY AND CRIPPLE EUROPEAN CAPABILITY IN A COMMER- Cially AND MILITARILY IMPORTANT AREA OF AVIATION ELECTRONICS"; (B) " . . . BRITAIN WHICH STANDS TO LOSE MORE FROM AN AMERICAN PURCHASE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, IS AT LAST BEGINNING TO QUESTION ITS SUPPORT FOR BOEING . . . "; (C) " . . . TRADE UNIONISTS AND MPS ARE BEGINNING TO ASK THE GOVERNMENT IF IT APPRECIATES THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS LOYALTY TO NATO"; (D) " . . . UNCLASSIFIED

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THE NOTION THAT A JOINT BUY (OF AWACS) WOULD BE AN OBVIOUS AND MUSCULAR DEMONSTRATION OF NATO SOLIDARITY. CAUGHT UP IN THIS, BRITAIN RELEGATED NIMROD TO A FALLBACK POSITION AND MADE IT A MASOCHISTIC TEST OF FAITH TO GO ALONG WITH NATO"; AND (E) " . . . SHREWDER EUROPEANS FEEL SIMPLY THAT THE AMERICANS ARE TRADING ON THE SPIRIT OF NATO TO OFFSET THE COST OF THEIR OWN

EXPENSIVE PURCHASE."

2. FINALLY, THE EGLIN ARTICLE LINKS AWACS TO CALIFORNIA'S WESTERN AIRLINES DECISION TO "BUY AMERICAN" RATHER THAN BUY THE EUROPEAN AIRBUS: "... WESTERN DIRECTORS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS WERE OPENLY EXPRESSING THEIR PREFERENCE FOR THE EUROPEAN AIRBUS ... BUT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THE AMERICAN AEROSPACE ESTABLISHMENT LEANED VERY HARD INDEED ON WESTERN TO BUY AMERICAN. IT IS A LESSON THAT HAS NOT GONE UNREMARKED IN EUROPE. AND IT MAY WELL INFLUENCE THE MARCH (NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS) MEETING."

ARMSTRONG

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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